



High School Test in Reading

***Released Items
Spring 2000***

PART I

DIRECTIONS

This test has two parts. You will have approximately 80 minutes to finish both parts. If necessary, additional time will be provided. You may write some notes to yourself in your test booklet, but any writing you want to be scored **MUST** go in the **ANSWER BOOKLET**.

Part I includes two types of multiple-choice questions: some that ask about each of the individual reading selections and some that ask about two or more of the reading selections. Each multiple-choice question is worth one point.

Begin Part I by reading the first selection. After you have finished reading, turn the page and begin marking your answers in your **ANSWER BOOKLET** starting with number 1 in the area labeled Reading: Part I. Mark only the **BEST** answer for each multiple-choice question. If you are not sure of the answer to a question, make your **BEST** choice and go on to the next question. Use only a No. 2 pencil to make a dark mark that fills the oval in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**. If you change an answer, be sure to erase the first mark completely.

Make sure the number of each test question corresponds to the number of the answer you mark on your **ANSWER BOOKLET**. If you skip a question, be sure to skip the number in your **ANSWER BOOKLET** that corresponds to that question.

When you have finished answering the questions for the first selection, repeat this process for the remaining reading selections.

Once you have finished Part I, you may continue on with Part II, the Response to the Reading Selections. In Part II, you will be asked to write a one- to two-page response to a question about a real-life scenario. You must include information and examples from each of the three reading selections in your scenario response.

All three of the reading selections are related to the same focus, which is stated below. It is important to keep the focus in mind as you are reading the selections and answering the test questions.

FOCUS: “How responsible should people be for their own actions?”

If you do not understand any of these directions, please raise your hand.

NOTE:

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DIRECTIONS: For each question, choose the BEST answer. You may look back at “The Bell of Atri” as often as necessary.

“The Bell of Atri”

Questions 1-7

- 1 At the beginning of this story, the length of the rope signifies that
 - A justice is available to all.
 - B the judges are willing to help.
 - C justice is sought in public.
 - D the bell is difficult to ring.

- 2 The king does **NOT** have the villagers come to him when they have been wronged because he
 - A wants the judges to help him decide about justice.
 - B refuses to deal with the villagers directly.
 - C avoids taking any responsibility himself.
 - D wants them to participate in the system of justice.

- 3 In “The Bell of Atri,” who is responsible for initiating justice?
 - A the nobility
 - B the community
 - C the individual
 - D the judges

- 4 What is the purpose of the rope?
 - A to signal a village emergency
 - B to enable individuals to request justice
 - C to punish ill-doers
 - D to assemble people for a meeting

5 Because of the horse, the villagers gained an awareness that

- A justice should be provided for all segments of society.
- B animals are living creatures.
- C criminals must be punished.
- D all beings are responsible for themselves.

6 The author uses a different text structure in Section 7.

“All the people in Atri heard it. It seemed to say,
Someone has done me wrong!
Someone has done me wrong!
Oh! Come and judge my case!
Oh! Come and judge my case!
For I've been wronged!”

He does this to

- A emphasize what the bell meant to the villagers.
 - B get the reader to rethink the meaning of the previous section.
 - C point out the uniqueness of the message.
 - D introduce a new idea into the story.
- 7 The purpose of the introduction to “The Bell of Atri” is to
- A establish the theme.
 - B identify the setting.
 - C introduce the characters.
 - D define the word “justice.”

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DIRECTIONS: For each question, choose the BEST answer. You may look back at “You’re a Big Baby” as often as necessary.

“You’re a Big Baby”

Questions 8-12

- 8 The author suggests that the way television presents solutions to problems causes viewers to
- A understand the problems of others.
 - B solve problems in their own lives.
 - C believe that complex problems are easily solved.
 - D forget their most difficult problems for a while.
- 9 According to the author of this article, individuals should establish their own viewing habits PRIMARILY to avoid
- A boredom.
 - B commercials.
 - C politics.
 - D dependence.
- 10 According to the author, hours and hours of television viewing cause
- A passivity.
 - B obesity.
 - C patience.
 - D responsible thinking.

- 11** The author justifies watching some television by stating that
- A** commercials are vital to sustaining the economy.
 - B** a little escapism is acceptable once in a while.
 - C** visual learning is the wave of the future.
 - D** politicians can give quick solutions to problems.
- 12** In “You’re a Big Baby,” the author begins to take responsibility for his viewing habits by
- A** canceling his cable service.
 - B** taking the batteries out of his remote control.
 - C** putting his television in the basement.
 - D** selecting more intellectual programs.

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DIRECTIONS: For each question, choose the BEST answer. You may look back at “The Silent Couple” as often as necessary.

“The Silent Couple”
Questions 13-18

- 13** What is the MOST important lesson that is taught in “The Silent Couple”?
- A** Competitiveness ensures an improved relationship.
 - B** Control is necessary for making good decisions.
 - C** Anger produces uncontrollable emotions.
 - D** Stubbornness can lead to irresponsible actions.
- 14** In “The Silent Couple,” the couple’s behavior causes them to
- A** forget their obligations.
 - B** appreciate each other.
 - C** seek counseling.
 - D** be without friends.
- 15** What does the conversation between the husband and wife reveal about their relationship?
- A** It shows that they care deeply for each other.
 - B** It shows that cooperation produces positive results.
 - C** It shows that mutual respect influences their behavior.
 - D** It shows that their competitiveness influences their behavior.

- 16** How do the actions at the end of this story reveal an important difference between the husband and wife?
- A** The husband lacks self-confidence.
 - B** The wife lacks the stamina to fight.
 - C** The husband is respectful of the law.
 - D** The wife is protective of her spouse.
- 17** Which set of words BEST describes the similarities between the husband and wife?
- A** greedy, jealous, lazy
 - B** selfish, disrespectful, rude
 - C** sensitive, sympathetic, sincere
 - D** tolerant, curious, intelligent
- 18** What important role do the thieves play in this story?
- A** They symbolize external authority.
 - B** They symbolize the difficulties people will endure to win.
 - C** They symbolize the forces of reason.
 - D** They symbolize the inner feelings of the couple.

DIRECTIONS: For each question, choose the BEST answer. You may look back at all of the selections as often as necessary.

Questions 19 to 28 ask about two or more of the selections.

- 19** In all three selections, lack of responsibility leads to
- A** increased interest and involvement.
 - B** the death of someone.
 - C** negative results.
 - D** the loss of personal possessions.
- 20** Who assumes responsibility for personal actions?
- A** the wife in “The Silent Couple”
 - B** the author of “You’re a Big Baby”
 - C** the old knight in “The Bell of Atri”
 - D** the husband in “The Silent Couple”
- 21** If the husband and wife from “The Silent Couple” were living in today’s society, what advice would the author of “You’re a Big Baby” MOST LIKELY give to them?
- A** Seek advice from television talk shows.
 - B** Adjust to overcome the problems in this world.
 - C** Learn to forgive those who try to harm you.
 - D** Exercise self-discipline in your actions.
- 22** How might the king in “The Bell of Atri” react to the idea that individuals should set their own television-viewing standards?
- A** He would support the notion of personal standards.
 - B** He would dictate what the standards should be.
 - C** He would oppose the notion of personal standards.
 - D** He would appoint someone to set the standards for everyone.

- 23** What do the following reveal about human behavior?
- allowing the horse to starve
 - allowing the house to be robbed
 - allowing oneself to become “addicted to television”
- A** People who are silent may be thinking only of themselves.
- B** When people are self-absorbed, they may act irresponsibly.
- C** Negative actions may have positive consequences.
- D** When people are under pressure, they may become aggressive.
- 24** Who reflects on personal behavior?
- A** the old knight in “The Bell of Atri”
- B** the husband in “The Silent Couple”
- C** the author of “You’re a Big Baby”
- D** the wife in “The Silent Couple”
- 25** The lack of responsibility in “The Bell of Atri” and “The Silent Couple” leads to
- A** a positive outcome.
- B** total disaster.
- C** outside intervention.
- D** an extreme punishment.
- 26** Because of inaction, which characters are victimized?
- A** the judges in “The Bell of Atri”
- B** the author and other TV viewers in “You’re a Big Baby”
- C** the villagers in “The Bell of Atri”
- D** the newlyweds in “The Silent Couple”

- 27** How would the husband and wife in “The Silent Couple” MOST LIKELY have reacted to the villagers’ treatment of the horse in “The Bell of Atri”?
- A** They would have fed the horse themselves.
 - B** They would have ignored the actions of the villagers.
 - C** They would have reported the inhumane treatment to the king.
 - D** They would have confronted the old knight.
- 28** How are the couch potato mentioned in “You’re a Big Baby” and the husband and wife in “The Silent Couple” alike?
- A** They fulfill the needs of others.
 - B** They ignore what is going on around them.
 - C** They are decisive about their future goals.
 - D** They show involvement with something other than themselves.

PART II

Response to the Reading Selections

DIRECTIONS

Write a one- to two-page response to the SCENARIO QUESTION that is stated in the box below. **Your own ideas and experiences may be used in your response, but you MUST reference information and/or examples from ALL THREE of the reading selections to be considered for full credit (4 points).** You may go back and reread or skim the selections at any time.

29 (4 points)

Scenario

There seems to be an increase of violence in schools today. As a result, some schools have taken such actions as installing metal detectors, hiring security guards, requiring that name badges be worn, and locking the school doors at a designated time.

Scenario Question

Whose responsibility is it to provide a safe environment in schools so that all are secure? Why?

You have received a sheet called the Scoring Guide for the High School Test in Reading. Please review the Scorepoint description for a 4, as this is what is needed for a response to earn all four points possible.

You may use the following pages to plan your response, but your final response **MUST** be written in your ANSWER BOOKLET.

Scoring Guide for the High School Test in Reading

Part II: Scoring Guide for the Response to the Reading Selections

Readers use these rubrics (holistic scorepoint descriptions) as guides when they score your writing.

Scorepoint

- 4** The student
- states a clear position in response to the scenario question;
 - demonstrates a clear and insightful application of common ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations that connect the reading selections in support of the position;
 - provides at least one referenced example **from within each** reading selection that convincingly illustrates one or more big ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations used to support the position taken. The examples must also directly connect the big ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations **across at least two** of the reading selections; and
 - relates referenced examples **without** misconceptions.
- 3** The student
- states a clear position in response to the scenario question;
 - demonstrates an application of common ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations that connect the reading selections in support of the position;
 - provides at least one referenced example **from within at least two** reading selections that convincingly illustrates one or more big ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations used to support the position taken. The examples must also connect the big ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations **across at least two** of the reading selections; and
 - may relate referenced examples with **minor** misconceptions.
- 2** The student
- responds to the scenario question but may not state a clear position;
 - demonstrates limited or vague connections among the common ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations that connect the reading selection(s) and scenario in support of the position;
 - provides at least one referenced example **from within at least one** reading selection that clearly illustrates one or more big ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations used to support the position taken but does not make a connection across reading selections;
- OR**
- provides at least one limited but relevant example **from within one or more** of the reading selections and makes a vague and/or ambiguous connection **across at least two** reading selections; and
- may relate referenced examples with **major** misconceptions.
- 1** The student
- responds to the scenario question but may not state a clear position;
 - demonstrates a very superficial understanding of the relationships between or among the common ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations that connect the reading selections in support of the position;
 - provides at least one referenced example **from within at least one** reading selection that superficially illustrates one or more big ideas, key concepts, and/or generalizations used to support the position taken but does not make connections across the reading selections;
- OR**
- provides insignificant, superficial, or irrelevant examples **from within one or more** of the reading selections and makes vague and ambiguous connections **across at least two** reading selections; and
- relates referenced examples with **major** misconceptions.

Condition codes for unratable papers

- A No reference to the scenario/answered focus
- B Off topic
- C Illegible/written in a language other than English
- D Blank/refused to respond
- E Off task (no reference to any of the reading selections)

29a Student Response 1

In the first story "The Bell of Atri" I felt that the bell was a great idea. The king is taking responsibility to solve the wrong doings in the village. However I feel that now if we were to have something like that people would get very carried away. When the horse, the bell and the judges came, I think they did the right thing. It was the knight's fault he decided to become a miser and was not as well off as before. I feel that there was no reason for the horse to pay for the miser's bad choice, so there for its only fair for the miser to have to take responsibility for the poor lame starving horse that before led him through rattle.

The second story "You're a Big Baby" is different from "The Bell of Atri," because the author takes action of his behavior. At first the author seemed to not be bothered by the problem like the characters in the other two stories. However in this story unlike the other two he himself realized the problem.

begin slowly but surely took brave steps to limit his couch-potato problem that got so serious it was a pitiful way of life.

The third story "The Silent Couple" seems hopeless. They can't have any kind of marriage going around being so stubborn and selfish. This couple reminds me a lot of the miser in the first story. None of these characters take responsibility for their beliefs except the author in "You're a Big Baby!!" However in the story's the selfish characters pay for their own bad behavior. The two couples pay by having all of their personal belongings taken by robbers because both of them refused to take responsibility for what was going on around them.

Score Point: Condition Code A — No reference to the scenario/answered focus

The writer summarizes the reading selections and discusses the theme of responsibility as it applies to each selection, but does not address the scenario question.

29b Student Response 2

I'm sitting in class chewing gum when I decide it's too old and plan to throw it away. The waste paper basket is near the teachers desk, and I'm not that far away so shoot it, like a basketball, and miss. The teacher gets up and yells at the kid who sits next to me. When he goes to argue that it wasn't him he's given a Saturday detention and is told to be quiet.

People should be responsible for their actions. In Reading selection #2 You're a Big Baby, the author says something to the fact that technology is a part of the future, but you yourself make the decision to sit down in front of that T.V. and watch it. You are responsible. In selection #3 The Silent Couple they chose to be stubborn and sit their like idiots while people are stealing everything they own. They were responsible they could have done something but they didn't they chose to sit there.

If I don't tell that teacher I throw the gum, then I'm putting my responsibility on someone else. That is neither right or fair. So take responsibility for your own actions, it's the right thing to do.

Score Point: Condition Code A — No reference to the scenario/answered focus

Although the writer uses an example of classroom behavior, there is no mention of school safety or school violence. It is evident that the writer is only using the selections to answer the focus question.

29c Student Response 3

I feel that ~~the~~ the safety of our schools isn't just one person or one group responsibility. we feel that it first needs to start at home with the parents. They have to teach their children morals, and right from wrong. Say if the parents fight or have guns and talk about things such as bar fights, or being racist the child will grow up that way and feel that its ok to pick on smaller kids or bring guns to school.

Second, I think that the school teachers, principals and all the school administrators need to be understanding and caring to every need to each and every child. For instance one child might have a bad home life, and might not get enough attention at home. Therefore he/she would act up hoping to get that ~~attention~~ attention they crave. Teachers can't stereotype kids maybe they know the family or had the student before and know how they are, but they still need to give

the benefit of the doubt. Let each student know that somebody cares, and that they are smart and that they too can succeed. I

The reason I feel that paragraph one and two are ~~very~~ so important is because everything needs to start somewhere. Most of the reasons of violence are the reasons I stated in one and two. Nobody can just eliminate violence totally, but maybe help it and let kids know there's other ways to turn.

First you have to start with caring and stop judging. People think kids are bad, so kids say "they think ~~these~~ we're bad already, so why not?" I think that the only ones whom are responsible for providing a safe school environment are the students, but the community has to help them feel good about themselves and let them know that people care and trust them. I feel that putting up metal detectors and having security guards

is just going to make kids feel
untrusted and trapped. In the mean
while these isn't any of that self
you mess up at a job you get fired,
not a detention, self you kill someone
you in jail, not kicked out of
school. So more disciplin is needed
but some times too much is too much.

Then my reasons started
in the above paragraphs shows
why I feel that not just one
person can change the violence
in schools, but a group of caring
adults and young adults could
probably change a lot.

Score Point: Condition Code E — Off Task (no reference to any of the reading selections)

In this long response, the writer responds to the scenario but does NOT reference any of the reading selections. The response is entirely prior knowledge and personal opinion.

29d Student Response 4

The people who are responsible for a safe environment in schools so that our secure world be the Board of Education, Center Board of Education, Principal and also our Superintendant Dr.

In our school and all around other schools should be safe while violence are going on. For example, people who does not go to this school should not be allowed unless she/he has a visitors pass and also security guards should be able to know who goes and does not go to this school.

We at High Schools have security guards every year, but different ones every year. Security guards are all around the school, but sometimes they don't pay attention who comes in and out. Our principal, hired security guards to watch the school to be safe from violence. What I think, even though we

we are safe, there is still violence out there wherever you go. Our Principal and our Superintendent care about their schools so it should be safe.

School do not allow any machines that would hurt another person.

I've been in this school for three years and this is my last year here at ever since I've been nothing has happen besides fight, but nothing violence and dangerous. Our Board of Education has protect us by not letting violence in the school. They stopped violence before it get worse.

One other person should provide safe environment in school so that all are secure is President Bill Clinton, because Clinton has the power to stop violence but it will continue. Bill Clinton has on trying to stop the gangs and violence that are going around the world.

For example, in the reading

selection about "You're a Big Baby" when children watch television, they see violence going around, wherever they go, they will see violence everywhere. So, how are children safe anywhere. These violence has got to stop and people specially younger children should be safe wherever they go.

Everyone who is in charge like Mayor, and Gouverneur Engler should be in charge of childrens safety.

My conclusion is that violence has to be stopped before it get worse and kill people. Gangs should be stop before they kill another.

Score Point: 1

The writer responds to the scenario question by listing all of the people responsible for a safe school, but the majority of the support for this writer's position is prior knowledge. In the last page, a superficial reference is made to "You're a Big Baby." This reference does not provide support, but it is an attempt to connect the selection to the scenario question.

29e Student Response 5

First, I think it is the schools responsible. For example, I think they should know the kids better. I think in "The Bell of Arti" it was the king's job. When he said let me fix it. For example I think he would provide an good environment in the schools.

Second, In "you're A Big Baby." An example, would be the politicians causing the trouble by not telling the truth. Another example is the problem is worsen because of MTV and the remote.

Third, in "The Silent Couple." An example would be when the wife speeches up to the police officer. I think she did this so she would not get in trouble with the law.

Score Point: 1

This writer refers to all three of the reading selections, but is unable to make clear or relevant connections between the selections and the scenario question. The majority of the response consists of random facts or misconceptions drawn from the reading selection.

29f Student Response 6

"It is the bell of nonviolence", in "The Bell of Atri." We need a bell of nonviolence to try to keep the schools empty of a destructible environment. The Administration and the students are responsible for keeping the school free of violence. They must want to come to school knowing they are safe and not in danger of being maltreated.

Responsibility plays a big factor in this discussion. If the students are not responsible enough for protecting themselves, then how are they going to protect their school. That is an obstacle they need to pass. The Administration needs to come up with a program to teach the students about responsibility and show them the positive results it can cause. You would think that with all of the deaths because of teen violence today that it would help them realize violence is not the answer.

Taking action such as having picture identification badges can be a help in keeping only the students that belong on school property. Another result of violence could be because of skipping class. Skipping class allows the students to wander around the school and look for trouble. Where if the administration would take better action when a student is caught skipping it could help lower some of the violence. Anger is another result of violence.

"Anger produces uncontrollable emotion." In "The Silent Couple" If a child is angry they tend to take it out on the first person in sight. We could help resolve some of this anger by sending the student to a counselor to talk about it and try to resolve it.

"TV shows present dilemmas + conflicts as things that can be resolved within an hour; like fairy tales, there's the build up, the crisis

the climax and the resolution", in "Your A Big Baby." This tells children, that the easy way out is the best way and the quickest way. So most teens think violence is the easy way out. We need to teach children that talking and resolving the problem is the best way.

The administration has to have specific rules for the students to go by. If the rules are broke then the child needs to be punished. The problem is that the lot to many broken rules just slip by, and it lets the students think its ok to do that. The student body is the biggest part to help keep the schools free of violence, but they also need the help of the administration.

Score Point: 1

The writer demonstrates a very superficial understanding of the reading selections and their connection to the scenario. The references to the selections are primarily taken out of context in an effort to support the writer's position. This manipulation of the reading selections demonstrates the writer's inability to make relevant connections between the selections and scenario, or to recognize the common themes across the readings.

29g Student Response 7

Well I think it is every-
bodies job to provide a
safe environment in schools,
because it is impossible for
one or two people to be
responsible for a whole school.
Also it is everybodies school, and
if they want it to be safe
they all can help out.

First of all they should
have metal detectors installed by
all the doors this would prevent
most weapons from entering
schools. Another thing they should
have is a couple police officers
with dogs. This would allow
less violence in school with
the officers being present and with
the dogs being there, there would
be a decrease in drugs in schools.

I think if we ignore the
problem like in the story "The Silent
Couple" our school would just get
worse. If someone takes control
and everyone helps out it
will be very successful, like
in "The Bell of Atri".

Score Point: 1

In this response the writer refers to two of the reading selections. Although the references are relevant, they are too vague and superficial to effectively support the position. More detailed references and clearer connections to the scenario are necessary for a higher score.

29h Student Response 8

In the story "The Bell of Atri" the townspeople erected a tower with a bell in it. The bell told the people of the town that if they were in need or they were being wronged that they could come and ring the bell. He told them that judges shall come together, and hear his case and give him justice. Just as in this story children in schools need to have a "bell of justice" when another child comes to school to threaten some other child. The one being threatened has to have some way to have justice.

I think that it is the responsibility of the school board to give them the justice they deserve. I think that they should be able to provide protection to those who need it.

Some kids bring guns to school. How can someone not see the gun or hear that he has it. I think that this comes from

watching too much t.v. I think that we should have security guards check us before we go to school. If they find a gun then they should confiscate it and put the kid on Probation.

I have heard that some kids get beat up and a teacher is standing right next to him watching him get beat up. What is wrong with this teacher if I was principal that teacher wouldn't be working for me anymore. Why is that teacher standing there watching and not breaking it up? Is it because he does not want to get hit or is it he doesn't like the innocent child! Just because the teacher does not like the child doesn't give him any right to just stand there. That child may look up to that teacher.

I think every child should have the right to learn without having to be harassed or beaten up. I also think that the teachers should take the time to stick up for a kid. I also think that children who have a

problem should not go to the same school as the ones who don't. We have kids at our school and they pick fights with others all the time they can't help it it is their nature. But they should get help for this yes I do feel sorry for them but I also feel sorry for the ones they pick on. I do not think that it is fair to those who want to learn I don't think people should be silent about their actions I just think people should have a fair chance at schooling. So I think that having security guards metal detectors and locking doors at certain times is good. People should always have a "bell of justice" to ring.

Score Point: 2

This response draws support from only one reading selection, "The Bell of Atri." The first paragraph and final sentence provide a weak connection between the selection and the scenario question. Although references to the selection are relevant, the majority of the response is digression into prior knowledge.

29i Student Response 9

In schools today there is an increasing problem, violence, people are hurt, things are stolen, and teachers are getting killed. These are three things which influence people that I think could be used better, awareness, television, and concern.

If people were a little more aware of what's happening violence, I guarantee, would go down. In the story "The Silent Couple" the newswatch don't pay attention to what's going on around them. I see it everyday at school, people writing on lockers and stealing school property. If people were aware, they could report these incidents and less people would commit these horrible acts out of fear.

If the television companies made people aware of what was happening in school, many people would see this and I'm sure a few would do something about it. In the story "You're a big baby" the author states that the average American will

spend 10 years of his life in front of the TV he's bound to see a violence in school special if they have one on. Plus he might just tell his kids some pointers. Television can be a good source of information when I see a good program I sometimes take action as some people do.

Finally concern, kids see what's going on but they just don't care. In the story "The Bell of Atri" the old miser lets his house go and nobody cares about it until it rings the bell. I see kids destroy others and school property and most of the time I don't say anything, why, lack of concern. Maybe one school should get a bell, and people might just start to care a little.

With these three ideas I have shown it's everybody's responsibility to provide a safe environment in schools so that all are secure.

Score Point: 2

This writer makes limited connections between the reading selections and the scenario question. Support remains ineffective due to major misconceptions (the writer implies that the Silent Couple are unaware of what's going on around them), and irrelevant references to "You're a Big Baby," and a vague but relevant connection to "The Bell of Atri."

29j Student Response 10

An important question has sprung into the minds of teachers, administrations, parents, and students: "Whose responsibility is it to provide a safe environment in schools so that all are secure?" Violence has sneaked into our elementary, Jr. Highs, and High school across the nation and is increasingly rising. I personally believe it is the schools responsibility, and I'll state some reasons.

First of all, the old story of "The Bell of Atri" retold by James Baldwin, is about a very pretty bell that was installed by the King to bring justice to those who had been wronged. "It is the bell of justice," said the King and continued, "Rich and poor, old and young, all alike may come." Whenever someone had injustice done to them in anyway, the bell would ring and the towns judges would seek a settlement. This is very much the same in our schools today. Metal detectors, hiring security guards, requiring badges to be worn, and locking school doors at designated times have been enforced to protect the innocent and to stop violence before it happens in the schools.

Secondly, People can be passive and helpless without an outside force (schools) taking accountability for their own well being. For example, an article by Mike, "You're a Big Baby" explains how something as simple as television can cause persons to lose the ability to immerse oneself in anything by watching alone. "I was increasingly distracted, fidgety, lazy, impatient, and unable to concentrate," admitted Mike. There is no possibility that all students can and will take the obligation of providing a safe environment in their schools. After analyzing all of the negatives of watching television, even Mike admits, "I still watch more TV

than I should. How can we expect the "normal" American students to be dependable when they can't even control the amount of hours spent watching the tube?

Lastly, "The Silent Couple" is a tale that warns us that pettiness can cause us to forget our obligations. It confronts a marriage between a mule-headed maiden and her pigheaded husband. Because one night neither one would close the door, they had an idea that the one who spoke first had to close the door. They sat face-to-face without saying a word for about two hours when a couple of thieves noticed the open door and crept in to steal everything. Noticing the thieves, the couple was too stubborn to even utter a sound. The next day a policeman was forcefully trying to get the husband to speak about the thieves when the wife jumped to her feet and threatened to leave her husband alone. Very boastfully, the husband rose and shouted, "I win! Now go and close the door." Because of their pettiness, they lost everything. Today we can easily get caught up and also forget about our own obligations. Students can be so focused on school work, they don't have time to secure the environment their in. Administrations can and will

In conclusion, because of the rise in violence and the lack of qualifications and dependability of students, the school should be in charge of defending the environment.

Score Point: 2

The writer responds to the scenario question, taking the position that students are irresponsible and, therefore, the "schools should be in charge of defending the environment." Although the writer refers to all three selections, much of the response is devoted to retelling, and connections between selections and the scenario are limited.

29k Student Response 11

Taking Responsibility

The responsibility of providing a safe environment in schools rests totally on the students. They're the only one who can make their schools safe. First, it's like the bell in the short story "The Bell of Atri." When someone was wronged, it was up to the individual to ring the bell to make sure justice was served.

Next in the short story "You're a big baby" the author took responsibility for himself when he canceled his cable so he wouldn't watch so much TV.

Finally in the short story "The silent couple" the silent contest didn't end until the woman broke the silence. This again shows responsibility in her own actions.

In conclusion the examples from the three short stories clearly show that the only people who can provide schools with a safe environment is the individual student putting forth an effort to keep their school safe.

Score Point: 2

In this high 2 response, the writer takes the position that school safety "rests [totally] on the students." This theme of individual responsibility is developed by citing examples across all three of the reading selections; however, references are limited and not sufficiently developed to effectively support this position.

291 Student Response 12

It is an individual's responsibility to provide a safe environment in schools so that all are secure. Just as in "The Bell of Atri"; if you want justice and want to feel secure you must let someone with some authority know about it. The individual must not be lazy and sit around doing nothing about a problem that affects them. As "Mike" says in "You're a Big Baby... and It's All Because of TV", people become preoccupied with less important things, like television for example, then they don't do anything to correct problems they may have. If the students who attend schools, not considered to be a safe environment; would let someone know about what is going on, maybe something could be done. "The Silent Couple" shows how people avoid taking on responsibilities and making decisions. The people in that

story would rather win their "contest", than keep from being robbed, just as many students would rather avoid confronting problems than having to put out an effort. In closing, I feel that it's up to individuals to face responsibilities, if they want to have a safer environment in schools.

Score Point: 3

The writer states a clear position ("It's an individual's responsibility") and supports it with referenced examples from each selection. The writer also recognizes a common idea (the failure to take responsibility) connecting the reading selections. References to the selections and connections to the scenario, however, tend to be general or vague, making support less effective.

29m Student Response 13

Providing a safe environment at school is a responsibility everyone should take on. Everyone is responsible for themselves and sometimes others.

In "The Bell of Atri," the judges had the responsibility of granting justice for the people. The people relied on them for their job and knew it was their responsibility. The miser, on the other hand, only had himself and his horse to take care of. But he failed to follow through with the responsibility, and let his horse fend for himself. "The Silent Couple" also showed lack of responsibility. While they sat there being childish and immature, they were robbed. If the husband would've just gotten up and shut the door nothing would've happened. Instead they both sat idly by while they were picked clean. "You're a Big Baby" shows responsibility on the author's part. He knew he had become addicted to T.V. and took it upon himself to stop watching T.V. He didn't blame it on someone else or wait till someone else did something about it. He knew it was his responsibility. The miser, from "The Bell of Atri" is like all the people who bring guns and

knives to school, they both lack maturity. And the husband and wife in "The Silent Couple" are all the people who sit by and watch the violence grow. But the judges from "The Bell of Atri" and the author of "You're a Big Baby", shows how one has to be responsible for themselves and others. One cannot expect the violence to just end, one has to bring it to the peoples attention, let them know it's their responsibility and everyone else to make the schools safe.

Score Point: 3

In this response, the writer takes the position that students must be "responsible for themselves and sometimes others." By contrasting responsible and irresponsible behavior in the three reading selections, the writer demonstrates an understanding of this common idea across the reading selections. In the final paragraph, the writer connects the selections and the theme of responsibility back to the scenario. These connections are very brief.

29n Student Response 14

The students are responsible of providing themselves with a safe environment to a certain extent. There are rules and regulations that everyone must follow in order to control their own actions. If the students allowed themselves to submit to violence, they would act as the author in "You're a Big Baby." The other allowed him to be "taken over" by T.V., just as the students are by violence. If the students were responsible for their own actions, they too, like the former couch potato, could rise above their problems.

From a different point of view, the people "in charge" of the schools are responsible for controlling violence. The violence would only get worse if the people in charge just let the students go like the knight in "The Bell of Atrium." The people in charge of the school could set down more regulations controlling their own actions and the actions of violence by the students. If the students were then free, as the horse did, there would be worse consequences for the administration of the schools to pay for in the end.

Looking at both points of view at the same time, both the students and the administration should be responsible for their own actions.

if the students became stubborn and the administration did, also, they would only have problems to deal with afterwards, as the couple in "The Silent Couple" did. The responsibility should be taken by both, the students and the administration. They should compromise. Also, the couple should have compromised so that they could have avoided the problems that had awaited them afterwards.

A safe environment in schools could be provided if everyone is responsible for their own actions and learn to compromise. The students should be responsible for themselves and the administration for themselves and the students. There would be less problems in the end.

Score Point: 3

This writer effectively supports the position that "everyone is responsible for their own actions" and must "learn to compromise" with specific examples within each reading selection. The theme of responsibility for one's own actions implicitly connects "You're a Big Baby" and "The Silent Couple." However, the writer does not offer a very specific reference from "The Bell of Atri," which weakens its connection to the scenario.

There is indeed an increase in school violence today. Kids cannot go to school without looking over their shoulder in fear. To truly stifle this violent wave, it is everyone's responsibility to provide a safe environment in schools. Teachers, students, parents, and the community as a whole must do their share. Granted this is wishful thinking, but if the problem is to be solved, then the wishful thinking must become a reality.

The first step in gaining safety in our schools is for everyone to take responsibility for their own actions. Communities could learn a lesson from the people of Atri in 'The Bell of Atri.' The people in Atri realized that it was each of their own responsibility to make sure they got justice. This is how people today need to act. If an injustice happens at school, they must make sure that justice takes place. If they don't, then they have no one to blame but themselves. We have to stop trying to avoid responsibility and letting someone else take care of it.

The next step in assuring safety at the schools is to be responsible for others. In the last paragraph we made the statement that we have to be responsible for ourselves. That is true. But we must also be responsible for others. Again, the people of Atri give us an example. When the people saw that the horse was suffering, they took

the responsibility of seeking justice because the horse could not. When the others took on the responsibility, the job was completed. The job of safety could be completed too if we follow Atri's lead.

The one thing we mustn't do is become like the couple in "The Silent Couple". They saw the problem, but they did nothing about, hoping the other would come to the rescue. Unfortunately, that's the way much of our community is acting. Students say it's the teachers' job, teachers' say it's the parents' job, and the parents' say it's everyone's job but their own. We must come out of that gridlock. We have to realize ~~with~~ that we must change just like the author in "You're a Big Baby". He realized the problem and changed it just like we must do.

If we truly want a safe environment, we must be like the people of Atri, not like the silent couple. We cannot wait for someone else to do the job. Metal detectors, security guards, and name badges can't cure the problem. Only we can. So there!

Score Point: 3

The writer successfully supports his stated position ("It is everyone's responsibility") with specific references to two reading selections and clear connections to the scenario. The final paragraph demonstrates a clear connection to the scenario question and across two of the readings ("Bell of Atri" and "The Silent Couple"). Only brief reference and weak connection is made to "You're a Big Baby."

29p Student Response 16

The responsibility of providing a safe environment in schools falls into the hands of the government, everyone, regardless of race, creed, or religion, is entitled to an education. Unfortunately many inner city children worry about other things instead of learning; there are the dangers of gangs, guns, and drugs on the streets and, sadly, in school. The people that are involved in these crimes are usually not aware that the things they are doing are wrong and take no responsibility whatsoever for their actions. All children should feel safe in school and have justice, take responsibility for their actions, and speak out when they have been wrongly accused of a deed.

In "The Bell of Atri", when the king hung up the Bell of Justice, he said it was for everyone to use if they had been wronged. Today many schools treat their students as numbers and judge all students to be dishonest; if a child complained that a teacher did something wrong, he wouldn't be taken seriously because it was just assumed that he didn't like the teacher. All segments of society should be provided with a means of justice, especially children, because they will learn that justice is for adults only and continue the cycle when they grow up.

In "You're a Big Baby", the author talked about he decided to cancel his cable service because

he was watching too much television. Many people act without thinking, and thus, don't understand why they have to deal with the consequences later on. If someone does something wrong, they should recognize their mistake and correct it in a responsible manner.

In "The Silent Couple," the newlyweds had a contest in that whoever spoke first would have to get up and shut the door. A few hours later they were robbed blind and still neither spoke nor moved. If they would have yelled for help, the thieves would have run off. The same thing is happening in schools today; children are afraid to speak up for fear that they won't be "cool" to their peers. If students are erroneously accused of something, they should feel free to contradict the accusation.

Many schools are not ideal environments to learn in, but the government is trying to make them safer by providing funds for security measures. In "The Bell of Atri" and "You're a Big Baby", the couch potato took responsibility for his actions and King provided justice for all in the town. The government is doing the same thing with schools by giving students a safer learning environment so that they might be more successful in whatever they do, thus making them better people and more trustworthy so teachers would be just to them.

Score Point: 4

In this response, the theme of equal justice and accepting the consequences of one's own actions are developed as they relate to school violence and the selections. The reference to "The Bell of Atri" develops a thoughtful connection between equal justice in that selection and how this concept should be applied to schools. The implicit theme of accepting the consequences of one's own actions is shown in both "You're a Big Baby" and "The Silent Couple" and is connected back to the scenario. Finally, the writer explicitly connects the idea of individual responsibility to both Mike and the King of Atri.

29q Student Response 17

I believe that people should be held directly responsible for their action and I think a lot of the blame for the problems in our schools goes to the parents of the children. If the parents of the students took responsibility for making sure that their children weren't taking weapons to school, that would solve about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the problem. We would also have to deal with the influences from music and other role models, even then there would still be some problems. But if parents and children would take responsibility for their actions; parents as good or bad role models; children for causing in to peer pressure, we could find a way to make our schools safer.

What we need in our schools today are more people like Mike, the author of "You're a Big Baby and it's All Because of TV". Mike takes responsibility for his actions, watching so much TV that he has become a couch-bound infant, by canceling his cable and giving himself a TV allowance. By doing these things Mike is taking responsibility for his actions; improving a bad habit at the same time. If more of the students in our schools would look around and say, "Hey maybe I can do something to stop all of this", then make an effort to our schools would be safer.

In "The Bell of Atri", we see another more common example of people dealing with their actions. The greedy old miser; his horse are meant to be an example of what can happen when someone is forced to take responsibility for their actions. The townspeople force the miser to be responsible for starving his horse, and they make him buy food, a stable; a pasture to make up for his bad judgement. If we forced students to serve more time, maybe even in jail, for violent offences committed in schools then they might see how their actions affect them. This would also make parents notice, even if only because they have to post bail, that the way they raised their children has a very direct effect on their lives.

There will always be people, like the couple in, "The Silent Couple", who just doesn't take any responsibility for any of their

actions. There will always be someone who sits back silently and watches while crimes are committed, and that is just an unfortunate fact of life. However hard we try to remove all violence from schools, there will always be that one person who is just wired wrong and will always be irresponsible. We need to try to move around those people and look to the positive side of things, like that the other 95% of people can usually be made to take some form of responsibility for their actions. There will always be one rotten apple in the barrel, but it doesn't have to spoil all of the rest.

I believe that people should be responsible for their actions and that most people are like Mike in "You're a Big Baby" or the miser in "The Bell of Atri;" not like the couple in "The Silent Couple". If we would all show some backbone and bite the bullet stung by our actions like Mike & the miser, not refuse all responsibility the couple, our world would be a better place, and our schools safer. It should be the responsibility of whole families, then whole neighborhoods and communities, and even whole states, to make sure that our schools are secure. It should fall on just one group of people, the whole society should be responsible, because it is society as a whole that shapes and molds us into what we are. For better or for worse, we are all wound together, family, neighborhood, community, society. For one to change the others must follow along and give support, no one group should expect that the others will reform themselves alone. It is everyone's civic duty to ensure that we have safe schools, it's the way our country works.

Score Point: 4

In this response, the writer takes the position that parents and children are both responsible for a safe school. Through comparison and contrast, the writer explicitly presents a thoughtful application of the common ideas (taking responsibility for actions and shared responsibility) that connect all three reading selections. Although the final paragraph is wordy, it demonstrates that this writer understands these common themes and their relationship to the scenario.

29r Student Response 18

Accountable

The amount of violence in schools today is on the rise. Drugs, guns, and gangs are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to unsafe school environments. School officials do all that they can to avoid danger in their schools, but the uses of metal detectors, security guards, name tags and locking school doors are just not enough. The solution to this intensifying problem lies within the individual. Only the individual can choose not to fight or bring a gun to school. People need to take responsibility for their own actions by making the choices that they know are right.

In "The Bell of Arti," the king also has the belief that people should take responsibility for themselves. In the town where this story takes place, there is a bell which people are told to ring if someone has done them wrong. If someone does you wrong and you ring the bell, the judges will all come and give you the justice that you deserve, but if you don't take responsibility for yourself by ringing the bell, then you will never get your wrong righted. The introduction states, "This story reminds us that the essence of what we know as justice in civil affairs is people living up to their obligations toward one another." This means that for a society to be safe and work together productively the individual must fulfill his personal responsibilities by not allowing wrong doers to thrive in his society.

In the selection "You're a Big Baby," the author says, "We're the ones who are plopping down on the comfy sofa, pressing that "on" button and curling up in a fetal ball till we doze off." The author is trying to show us that our TV problems are caused only by ourselves. We are the ones who do not take the responsibility to turn off the TV when we know that we should. We also have a responsibility to keep our school environments safe by personally choosing not to act in a violent and inappropriate manner.

In the third selection, "The Silent Couple," the author "warns us that pettiness can cause us to forget our obligations. The couple in this story forgot about their responsibilities to themselves and to society, allowing others to rob them of their possessions. The couple in this story did not have enough responsibility or maturity to go and shut the door themselves. Also, they did not have the responsibility as a citizen to stop the thieves when they were being robbed.

These three stories all show that the responsibility to provide a safe environment in schools, or anywhere, lies within the individual. In the first paragraph, the village people were responsible to each other to not allow "wrong-doers" to be free in their community. In the selection "You're a Big Baby," we learn that we have a personal responsibility for our own actions. In the final paragraph, the author teaches us that we have a personal responsibility to do what is right for ourselves and also to do what is right for others. From each of these stories we can see that the responsibility to provide a safe environment in schools is the responsibility of the individual.

Score Point: 4

In this response, the writer takes the position that students are "accountable" for their actions. This position is thoughtfully and clearly supported with referenced examples from within all three of the reading selections. The theme of personal choice and one's obligations to others is developed across all of the readings. The final paragraph explicitly connects these themes and their relationship to the scenario.

29s Student Response 19

~~Violence~~ Violence in schools is on the increase, & something needs to be done about it. Many schools have implemented some form of security, whether it be security guards, metal detectors or anything else. This doesn't seem to be doing the trick. Safety for everyone can be attained only if each individual takes this problem to a personal level & does his/her part to correct it. This idea is strengthened by the articles/stories, "The Bell of Atri," "You're a Big Babe," & "The Silent Couple". Each of these ~~articles~~ ^{stories} leaves an impression upon the reader the need to take responsibility for one's own actions. Unfortunately, this will never happen in our ^{most} ~~most~~ institutions.

In "The Bell of Atri," a very fair & reasonable institution is set up to guarantee justice ~~for~~ to everyone. The bell is placed where all can find it & the rope is long enough for all to ring it. Sadly, this is not how our justice system works today. It seems that money has corrupted even the most sound institution we have. ~~There~~ Those with money

can buy justice, or in some cases injustice, while the common folk are ~~the~~ victimized by the system. In an ideal situation, such as perhaps in "The Bell of Atri", everyone is held accountable for his actions. The knight in this story is forced to pay for his wrongs, even though he is rich. The children are able to ~~present~~ present their problems before an unbiased panel of judges. This is justice. In a society such as that, everyone has to answer for their actions. This, eventually, will lead to drastically reduced rates of crime or in the case of the schools, would drastically reduce instances of violence.

In "You're A Big Baby", the idea of taking responsibility for one's own actions is further stressed. The author, while bashing society in general, bashes himself. He is a good example of a person taking responsibility for his own actions. Rather than blaming his TV watching on someone or something else, he took full responsibility. More importantly he did something about it; he decided to cut back & cancel his cable service. In the case with school violence, if people would share this feeling, the problem would disappear. When they realized the harm they were causing, ideally they would reverse their trend & maybe even work to stop the violence. Again, this will only happen in an ~~utopic~~ utopic society.

The story, "The Silent Couple" this idea was further impressed on the reader's mind. By not ~~showing~~ ^{showing} responsibility

By not closing the door the couple put themselves in a bad situation. They worsened this by sitting idly by while they were robbed. Because they didn't take responsibility for their actions, & change their stubborn way, they were taken advantage of. They allowed their competitive natures to get in the way. In the schools, the same sort of troubles can result. Competition is a source for much anger & violence, when you throw a person who doesn't feel he has to answer for his actions into the mix, the situation only worsens.

For schools to eliminate violence entirely, ~~the~~ ^{we} people need to be ^{willing} ~~able~~ to take responsibility for their actions. As displayed in the three documents, "The Ball of Atrii", "You're A Big Baby", & "The Silent Couple", situations can become worse ~~and~~ when the people involved do not have to or feel they have to answer for their wrong actions. Only when ^{society} ~~people~~ as a whole decides to ~~then~~ make individuals feel responsible for their actions, will we be able to do away with violence in schools.

Score Point: 4

The writer takes the position that school safety "can be attained only if each individual takes this problem to a personal level and does his/her part to correct it." The writer then supports this position with relevant referenced examples from within each of the readings. A clear, thoughtful understanding of the themes of personal responsibility and accountability for one's actions connect all of the readings. The contrast between real and ideal societies is also insightful. The response is clear, thoughtful, and demonstrates a synthesis of relevant knowledge.

29t Student Response 20

Responsibility plays a significant role in today's society. People should learn to couple with their own actions and take on responsibility for themselves. In "The Bell of Atri," "You're a big baby," and "The Sicknt Capk" the characters suffer and lose do to their inability to see through their responsibility. I feel it is the students responsibility to provide a safe environment in the schools.

In "The Bell of Atri," caught up in his desire and greed for gold; the old knight does not acknowledge his responsibility to take care of his old horse. Because he failed to take care of the horse, he ended up losing half his gold anyway as a consequence. The horse was then able to be housed and fed. Moreover, the students should show responsibility and provide a safe environment in schools for themselves. Otherwise, they to will have to pay the consequences and be supervised and monitored.

"You're a Big Baby," provides examples of changing your responsibilities. If you find yourself watching to much TV, you should change your lifestyle and reduce the amount of time you spend watching the television set. This piece of writing shows how people must change and take care of their own

actions. The reading teaches a couch potato how to change and avoid overuse of TV. Maybe someone should teach the students responsibility, this could reduce the violence. However, most people cannot be taught to change. In this scenario, the schools should probably be under surveillance and pick out the violent students, and put them in certain programs to help them become more responsible.

In "The Silent Couple," the newlyweds act very irresponsible, childish, and lazy. They lose everything just because the two of them decided to challenge each other to see who could win the "silent war" and not have to get up and shut the door. In the process, they were encountered by thieves who stole everything, but the couple was too stubborn and caught up in their little game to do anything about it. Because of their failure to be responsible the couple lost everything they owned. That is why people need to learn to be responsible for themselves and take care of their own actions. The students should learn to deal with their own actions and provide a safe learning environment.

Ultimately, "The Bell of Atri," "I'm a Big Baby," and "The Silent Couple," provide excellent examples on the significance of responsibility and the consequences. The students should learn their responsibility and create a safe environment in schools. The schools can install metal detectors, hire security guards, and lock the doors, but it is still up to the students to demonstrate their own good actions.

Score Point: 4

29u Student Response 21

Maintaining the safety and security of a school is the responsibility of the students, staff, and government all three need to be active in the security of the school. The balance of them ^{choices} them all helps the security of the school.

The government needs to be respond to the requests of the school to help keep it safe. They must allow money to be used for funding security measures and the maintenance of the security. They cannot sit back and wait for things to happen, they need to intervene before they do. The government does need to be more active, they are ~~too~~ progressing like the men in "You're a big baby and it's - all because of TV", he says "You might say I've grown up a bit - learned to crawl, if you will. Soon I might just be walking." The government is starting to "crawl", maybe they will be walking soon.

The students at a school are very responsible in keeping the integrity and environment protected at a learning establishment. They should not sit back and watch students being harassed, they need to "ring the bell" and be pro-active, and all students should be able to do it, and not be "too short." "What if a child ^{should} be wronged? It could not ring the bell to let us know it." (page 5 The Bell of Atri) Even the smallest student should be able to step up and be heard. Students do have adversaries, peer pressure is a big one, and how other students will look at you, but that is part of growing up, learning to stand alone and be a grown-up. We are growing, and should be heard. If a student is too insufficient to handle a problem, he should talk to an administrator or teacher, and they should help him/her out.

The staff at a school, needs to be very aware of the actions and reactions of their students. ~~They~~ Staff members also need to know what animosities may be growing between them and their students pupils. They have the greatest responsibility in the preservation of a safe learning environment. The Staff members are the adults in the situations that arise in school, the role models to their students, the mediator to conflicts, and are held responsible first for actions in their setting. The staff must use their experience and knowledge to control uprisings, conflicts, if a student abuse another student, they are obliged to intervene. They can't wait for someone else to move first the actions could be very consequential. In the story the Silent Couple, the newlyweds wait until it is too late to react, losing the point of their morals. →

Staff members and students must share a relationship like this, using one another to control their environment. The shootings at schools around the United States in recent years could have been prevented if people were responsible and reported the actions of others before it was too late. At Columbine High School, other students knew of the shootings in advance, but failed to communicate to someone who could take care of the situation, and now people's lives are changed and lost. That shooting led to others throughout the U.S. The main reason for most outbreaks was the teasing and bullying of fellow students, we now know everyone must be responsible to prevent dangerous situations from arising in our schools.

The Government, students and staff of schools must have a secure relationship to maintain safety within schools. They are all responsible in their own ways, and should all accept this responsibility like adults with maturity, sometimes. This relationship must exist and be constant to provide this environment, the cooperation makes schools more enjoyable and less frightening. School safety is more than one group's responsibility.

Score Point: 4

29v Student Response 22

It is easily seen by the nation today that there is an increase of violence in schools today. Eventhough schools have put forth an effort to stop the violence by installing metal detectors, hiring security guards, and/or locking doors, it is definitely not the school's responsibility to provide a safe envirnment — it is the student's responsibility.

In the story titled "The Bell of Atri," it was the villager's responsibility to ring the bell in order to recieve justice. As an individual, any villager who had been done wrong would only have to take action for himself before the judges could then hear his case and give him justice. We, as students, have to take responsibility into our own hands to receive security, just as the villagers did to receive justice. It was not the judges who initiated the act of justice, just as it isn't the schools who should initiate the act towards security.

The author of "You're a Big Baby" took responsibility for himself as we all should. When he noticed he was watching too much T.V., he says he 'took a big step' and he canceled his cable. It would also be a good idea for students to take a big step and take responsibility in making our schools more secure. It isn't

the school that must take the job. As it is explained in the author's article, it is our responsibility to watch less T.V. This action is not taken by the state, or the city, or anyone else but us.

In the story titled "The Silent Couple", the husband and wife would have never been robbed if only one of them took the responsibility to shut the door in the first place. It was not the police officer who needed to prevent wrong doings at that time, but it was the husband and wife themselves. If it weren't for their lazyness and ignorance towards what was happening, they could have took action so that nothing bad happened at all.

We, as the students of any school, need to take action to prevent wrong doings. It is the students who inflict the violence and so they must also be the ones to prevent it. If the school puts forth an effort to stop violence, the students will only continue it by working around the school's opstackes. Therefore, students need to take a stand. They need to talk to eachother, open their minds and kindness towards other people. They need to do whatever they can to help stop such acts of violence.

Score Point: 4

29w Student Response 23

In today's society, with all the violence in the school environment, it is every person's responsibility to take action in providing a safe environment so that all are secure. The three reading selections, "The Bell of Atri," "You're a Big Baby," and "The Silent Couple" illustrate this belief.

"The Bell of Atri" makes this point evident by showing what toll the lack of responsibility can have on a situation. The miser, from this reading selection, did not take responsibility he had to care for his horse. There is no reason that is even considerable in a situation like this to not take responsibility. The miser's reason that "Every week it costs me more to keep him than he is worth" is not even close to justifiable. Responsibility is a duty, not a choice, and as in this definition of justice, "the essence of what we know as justice in civil affairs is people living up to their obligations toward one another" ("The Bell of Atri"), it is clear as glass that we have a responsibility for one another, not just ourselves.

The piece, "You're a Big Baby"

illustrates responsibility also. It reads that the reason we watch a much too large quantity of television is because "[we're] too lazy to be active or productive." This quote shows our lack of responsibility and the effect it has (we are not productive). The author even gives an example of the lack of responsibility he has for others because of his/her excess television viewing, "I couldn't stay focused on the back of the milk carton long enough to find out who the missing kid was. He could have possibly helped this unknown child."

With the third story, "The Silent Couple", it is made evident once again that a lack of responsibility was taken. The couple allowed themselves to be robbed! The reason the story gives is that "pettiness can cause us to forget our obligations." They allowed the robbers to rob them, instead of taking responsibility for society, by calling the police and having them arrested. It was the couple's personal responsibility to make society safer and more secure.

In conclusion, the three pieces have illustrated the duty for every person to take responsibility for others. The examples would be that the miser should have taken responsibility for the care of his horse, the author of "You're a Big Baby" should have taken responsibility for the child on the milk carton, and the couple should have stopped the robbers. It is thus our responsibility to take control by providing for a safe environment in schools so that we are secure. If we all could help guide one young person in making positive decisions, such as being involved in a sport, maybe terrible situations, like the Columbine School Massacre (April 1999) would not continue to happen.

Score Point: 4

29x Student Response 24

In order to maintain a sound environment that provides for school safety, it must be initiated by the students themselves.

If students enjoy a school setting in which they do not endure personal threats or peer violence then it may be suggested for them to practice what they preach. If students provide a friendly environment for others then they surely shall receive one as well. In other words, students must take responsibility for themselves just as the author of "You're a Big Baby" did when he realized that television was molding him into a mindless drone. Students have realized the violence that surrounds them, so now they need to take responsibility. This scenario is also very similar to "The Silent Couple." Students can be related to the couple in that they rather "sit" there and present someone else with their problem than actually "getting up" and doing something about it. Some students maintain an attitude of, "If violence isn't affecting me then why should I worry about it?" — because it can easily invade the securities of your friends and loved ones just as it did in "The Silent Couple." The wife was not instigated until an outside force jeopardized her husband. This reflects the ignorance of some uninvolved students: they do not care about a bad situation until it affects them.

"The Bell of Atri" is very beneficial in its opening statement, in which it states that "justice in civil affairs is people living up to their obligations toward one another."

because that is exactly what students need to do. If students live up to their obligations towards one another (mainly respect but may also include friendliness, generosity, etc.) then less conflict will result. For some misguided juveniles, the "rope" of justice is perceived as unattainable and that is why they resort to violence when the obligations of their peers has been denied to them. That is why we (the village people in "The Bell of Atri") need to realize that everyone requires justice in society, even those forgotten, who are represented by the grossly finished horse. The only way not to overlook those in need of justice is to, (referring back to "You're a Big Baby" and "The Silent Couple") once again, take responsibility and stop ignoring the problems that exist around you which seemed to be the major themes in those two reading selections.

Score Point: 4

29y Student Response 25

School violence is an increased issue of controversy in today's society. The responsibility to provide a safe environment in schools so that all are secure relies primarily on the school officials, but ~~action~~ also depends ^{greatly} on the students.

Take for example, the king in "The Ball of Atrii". He is the one who provides for the ~~of~~ ball of justice, and is also a figure of high denomination. ^{This king's job of standard is to provide justice.} On the other hand, he leaves it up to the community to solve their problems without him. ^{He} therefore ~~implies~~ ^{implies} that he has set a standard which to follow but not to conform to. ~~Therefore~~ ^{draws} This ~~implies~~ parallel to the fact that even though it was his choice to set the standard, ^{he} it was not his obligation to ensure that it worked. Relating to the fact that even if it is the job of the school officials to provide a safe environment, it is not their obligation to ensure that the students ~~conform~~ conform to it.

To be responsible is to establish a provision ~~for~~ ^{for} justification for one's own actions. In "You're a Big Boy" ~~by~~ the author suggests that individuals should

take responsibility for their own actions and establish their own t.v viewing habits. Moreover, because watching t.v is an independent action, the dependence of responsibility diminishes, causing complex difficulty in motivation factors, and capabilities of action etc. In schools today, ~~the state~~ one of the educational themes ~~is~~ states "You are responsible for your own actions". Thus stating that if a school and school officials provide for safety, ~~and it is~~ ^{it is} students job to take responsibility for their actions and ~~responsibilities~~ consequences thereof.

The responsibility and the lack of ~~it~~ in students is a prevalent issue in today's world. This is shown in "The Silent Couple" where both spouses do not take responsibility for their actions and the final outcome is that they both ~~end up~~ end up losing, figuratively and literally.

Overall, it is the school's job to provide a safe learning environment in their schools but only to a certain extent. The inhabitants of that school, the students, must comprehend that in order to ~~ensure~~ ensure the safety of all, they must take responsibility for their own actions.

Score Point: 4

29z Student Response 26

Can anybody force someone else to do something they don't want to? The answer to this question is no. Whether it's ordering food, picking out certain clothes, or taking responsibility for ~~your~~^{ones} own actions in order to provide a safe environment in schools so that all are secure, ~~that~~^{where} it is the responsibility of yourself. In all three of the previous selections, this has been demonstrated.

"The Bell of Atri" shows this through the miser allowing the horse to ~~starve~~ starve. It was the miser's responsibility to feed and house the horse. The horse had been faithful to the miser just like schools are faithful to the students. Yet the miser wouldn't fulfill his end of the bargain by taking responsibility for the horse. This is a parallel to how students won't take responsibility for their end of the bargain which is keeping the schools with a safe environment for all. Even though the miser was punished and told he had to take responsibility for his actions, so have students been dealt with the same way but it doesn't work unless the student decides it is going to. Nobody can force him to act responsibly.

In "The Silent Couple" the couple didn't want to take responsibility for their actions so they were robbed. This is the same with schools.

The students don't want to take responsibility for their actions so in turn, they are robbed. Not of Material ^{Possessions} ~~possessions~~, but of freedom, a good reputation and in the worst of cases, life. No one could force the couple to talk in the story, just like no one can force the students to speak up and take responsibility for themselves it has to be their choice.

In the passage entitled "You're a Big Baby" the author takes responsibility for his own actions. This creates a positive result. No one made him change his T.V. habits, he had to realize on his own ~~Be~~ that there was a problem of his own, and he was the only one who could fix it. This is what needs to happen in the schools for it to be a safe environment for all. Students need to realize there is a problem, and then take responsibility ~~and~~ for it. That is the only way the schools will be safe, and it is the students responsibility to do so.

All three of the previous passages have given insight to the question: whose responsibility is it to provide a safe environment in schools so that so that all are secure? The answer to this question before reading these passages is the Students, and the answer after reading them, is still, but now even more so, the students.

Score Point: 4

29aa Student Response 27

I believe that it's the students responsibility to keep schools safe. The primary reason is that they are the ones who can control their actions. By this I mean that it's their choice whether they should bring harmful devices or not. It's just like the author of Your a Big Baby. He knew that he had an increasing need for television, so he took responsibility, he took away his cable, he's not in front of the television a whole lot, and he's reading more books all in sake of trying to stop being a couch potato. With that in mind, the students have to make sacrifices in order to keep peace in their school, because all of the staff administrators, the security guards, and social workers are doing the best they can. In the Bell of Atri, the citizens had a responsibility to report any wrong doing against them. Well in school, it's the same thing, it's the students responsibility to report any wrong doing that either hurt or offended them. By doing this, a neutral third party will come into play, and that third party is like the judges, they will decide whether or not justice should be served. In The Silent Couple, the two main characters, the husband and wife, showed irresponsibility by allowing their hard-headedness to get in the way. Their possessions were stolen, the law came into play, and their stupidity also showed up, all because of an open door. See, the door is open, and trouble is what keeps on entering, so someone will have to show responsibility and close the door so trouble will be blocked out. The only person who can close the door are students, they have to get-up, and close the door, so they can live a peaceful life. In conclusion, the students are the only people who can keep a school safe. They have to show responsibility by ditching any bad habits that can lead to violence, telling the proper authorities if someone has violated them, and by not being stupid, just stay out of trouble. By following these steps, peace will come.

Score Point: 4

Michigan Educational Assessment Program
Statewide Test Item Analysis
HST in Reading

District: PUBLIC SCHOOL
Run Date: 09/06/2000

Spring 2000

Multiple Choice							Constructed Response																	
Item No.	Objective Code	Percent Answering by Response					Omit/Mult	Item No.	Objective Code	Percent Receiving Number of Points										Percent Receiving Condition Codes				
		A	B	C	D					0.0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	A	B	C	D	E	
Within the Reading Selections							Response to the Reading Selections																	
01	TEXT1	96*	1	2	2	0X	29	OE	0	0	8	14	37	15	8	2	1	1	0	0	1	14		
02	TEXT1	22	3	7	69*	0X																		
03	TEXT1	2	8	46*	44	0X																		
04	TEXT1	5	88*	6	2	0X																		
05	TEXT1	81*	9	3	8	0X																		
06	TEXT1	74*	5	19	2	0X																		
07	TEXT1	46*	16	1	37	0X																		
08	TEXT2	4	6	68*	21	0X																		
09	TEXT2	22	11	2	64*	0X																		
10	TEXT2	79*	16	2	2	0X																		
11	TEXT2	9	76*	12	3	0X																		
12	TEXT2	79*	2	2	17	0X																		
13	TEXT3	2	4	4	89*	0X																		
14	TEXT3	86*	12	1	1	0X																		
15	TEXT3	2	3	8	87*	0X																		
16	TEXT3	3	2	1	94*	0X																		
17	TEXT3	25	68*	4	3	0X																		
18	TEXT3	4	72*	18	6	0X																		
Across the Reading Selections																								
19	CTI	8	1	75*	16	0X																		
20	CTI	7	78*	12	2	0X																		
21	CTI	8	17	3	72*	0X																		
22	CTI	54*	8	6	31	1																		
23	CTI	5	87*	6	3	0X																		
24	CTI	7	5	81*	7	0X																		
25	CTI	14	10	58*	17	0X																		
26	CTI	3	13	4	80*	0X																		
27	CTI	4	85*	4	7	0X																		
28	CTI	2	90*	3	5	0X																		
Number Tested: 78512																								
							<p>Condition Codes for the Constructed Response Items:</p> <p>A No reference to the scenario/answered focus</p> <p>B Off topic</p> <p>C Illegible/written in a language other than English</p> <p>D Blank/refused to respond</p> <p>E Off task (no reference to any of the reading selections)</p>																	
							<p>The HST in Reading is based upon the <i>Michigan Essential Goals and Objectives for Reading Education (1986)</i>.</p> <p>CTI = Cross-Text Item</p> <p>OE = Open-Ended Item</p> <p>Within the Reading Selections Items: Students provide evidence of their understanding of the key issues and ideas contained <u>within</u> each of the three reading selections.</p> <p>Across the Reading Selections Items: Students provide evidence of their understanding of the key issues, ideas, and critical points <u>across</u> two or more of the reading selections.</p> <p>Response to the Reading Selections: Students read a short real life situation or scenario related to the key ideas contained in the reading selections. Students must then take a perspective on the issue presented in the scenario and write a response using evidence from all of the reading selections to support their viewpoint.</p>																	

Omit/Mult = Omits and Multiple Responses
* Number of students present rounds to zero